

## ***A GUIDE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANTS***

This information is designed to provide an overview of the Sunnyvale Planning Commission. Once appointed to the Planning Commission, each Planning Commission Member will receive additional information as part of the orientation provided by the Planning Commission staff liaison.

### ***What is the Planning Commission?***

The seven-member Planning Commission (PC) is a volunteer commission that acts as an advisory body to the Sunnyvale City Council on existing and potential programs, policies, and other issues related to planning development and regulation of land use. The PC has decision-making authority for a variety of development proposals.

### ***What does the Planning Commission do?***

- Reviews the City's growth, housing needs, and environmental protection.
- Addresses issues such as appropriate landscaping, building setbacks, architectural quality, exposure to noise, and crowded roads.
- Recommends goals and policies for directing and managing future land development.

The PC also provides advice to the City Council on land use and development issues including:

- Community planning
- Zoning laws
- Subdivision regulations
- Sign controls
- Community growth management regulations
- Dedication of private land
- General Plan management

### ***What land-use related projects had the Planning Commission recently reviewed?***

- Amendments to the City's zoning code to help with the locating of "places of assembly" and "amusement and recreation uses"
- Conversion of a former mobile home park to 60 single-family detached homes
- Design Review of larger homes
- Murphy Avenue Streetscape Revitalization Project
- Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan
- Over a dozen residential developments from 4 to 130 dwelling units; many on former industrial sites planned for residential use

- Phase 1 of the update to the *Precise Plan for El Camino Real*, a long-range planning document which will guide the future of the desired appearance and orderly development for this major commercial corridor
- Requests for places of worship and community centers, many in former industrial buildings
- Requirements to include “community rooms” or “club houses” in residential developments greater than 50 units
- Specific Plan (a form of master plan) for the former Four-Points Sheraton Hotel site for a new four-star 250 room hotel and 260 high-end residential condominium units
- Telecommunications towers designed to look like evergreen or coniferous trees
- Update to the City’s Tree Preservation regulations
- Zoning code modifications to preserve land zoned for commercial service uses

### ***When and where does the Planning Commission meet?***

The Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the West Conference Room for a Study Session and 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall for public hearings.

Meetings are open to the public and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order. The public may participate in these meetings according to established procedures.

### ***What else do you need to know?***

Applicants should have knowledge of and/or demonstrate interest in Sunnyvale’s future developmental plans and programs.

Applicants must be Sunnyvale residents and registered to vote in Sunnyvale. City employees and their relatives within the second degree (parents, grandparents, children, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, uncles and aunts, and members of their household) are not eligible to apply.

It is important for applicants to understand the nature and scope of the work of the Planning Commission, and to realize the type and amount of time and commitment necessary to be a successful commissioner. Each applicant is encouraged to give full consideration to these factors before accepting an appointment to the Planning Commission.